

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

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2021

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Eastern Illinois University

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WELLNESS DAY THURSDAY

The Daily Eastern News will not publish a paper Thursday due to the scheduled wellness day. Printing will resume Friday.



THIRD-STRAIGHT LOSS

The Eastern women's soccer team lost 1-0 Tuesday to close out the first half of the season.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 105 | NO. 115

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

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AFSCME struggles to reach contract common ground

By Corryn Brock
News Editor | @corryn_brock

The union serving Eastern's building service workers, cooks, kitchen laborers, clerical workers and technical workers are fighting for a contract they say is only fair.

According to the webpage for the union, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 981, "AFSCME organizes for social and economic justice in the workplace and through political action and legislative advocacy."

Currently, some members of the union have been without contract since June after months of negotiating with the university. They are working under the terms of the previously voted on contract.

One issue the service workers in the union are facing in their bargaining is retaining rights given in the previously voted on contract, like the ability to choose a work schedule or an assurance that the university cannot subcontract workers for positions that would typically be filled by union members.

When it comes to scheduling, Natalie Nagel, staff representative for AFSCME Council #31, said having control over the schedules they work gives those in the union more security in their lives.

"It causes a lot of problems because people have a life outside of work," Nagel said. They have childcare, other family responsibilities, some people might have a second job because their wages are low here and so not having that stability of knowing when you're going to work can cause a lot of stress."

Nagel says the management over those positions would like to have control over scheduling.

Subcontracting is another concern the union has. They say not only do they fear for job security with the potential to subcontract work, but they also worry for students.

Some service workers say they worry that subcontracted workers could bring in safety issues for students or potentially issues of theft.

Thursday the bargaining will continue along with the support of the University Professionals of Illinois.

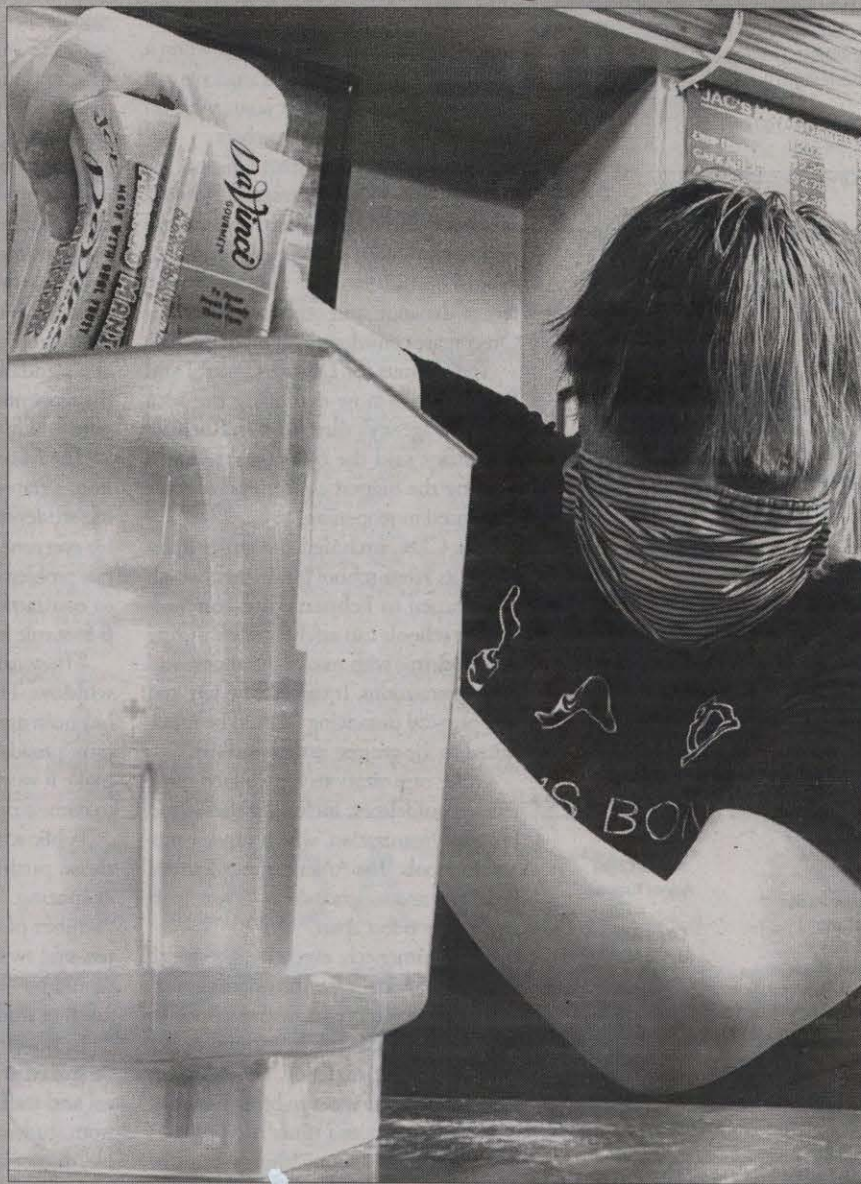
The meeting will be in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union and begin at 9 a.m. Members of UPI are encouraged to have a presence outside of the ballroom starting at 9:10 a.m. to show their solidarity with the members of AFSCME.

Nagel says supporting the members of AFSCME is the least people can do after their work during the pandemic.

"They have worked through the whole pandemic and they are the reason that Eastern can be open this Fall and this Spring. They are doing the disinfecting, they spent the summer getting housing units ready for students when they had to isolate. The clericals spent hours and hours and days and days converting classes to online formats and making sure that students were registered correctly," Nagel said. "It's been a hard year and they've worked really hard to make sure that this school year could happen and I really think they deserve credit. They're not asking for anything astronomical, they just want to be treated fairly and with respect."

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at cebrock@eiu.edu.

Blending in



CORRYN BROCK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Megan Kidwell pours syrup into a blender at Jackson Avenue Coffee. Kidwell works at the coffee shop and also sell handmade earrings in the store.

FY 2021-22 city budget on file for inspection

By Corryn Brock
News Editor | @corryn_brock

The Charleston City Council placed the city budget for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2021 and ending April 30, 2022 on file for public inspection during its meeting Tuesday evening.

The budget will be available for review at the Carnegie Library and City Hall beginning March 17 after it is approved by the council.

The budget will be online at the council's section of the city website.

The budget will be available for public inspection until April 20.

CITY COUNCIL, page 5

Naming Committee to meet Wednesday

By John Wills
Staff Reporter | @DEN_news

As Eastern continues to debate the controversial subject of whether to rename Douglas Hall, the University Naming Committee is preparing to gather student surveyal on the matter ahead of their meeting on Wednesday.

The committee will finalize their plans for upcoming forums for students, staff and faculty to gather public opinion on whether they support or do not support the renaming of the hall.

The committee feels this is the best way to make an adequate and informed decision on the matter.

The University Naming Committee acts as an advisory board to University President David Glassman. When a proposal for naming something on campus – be it a building, a room, or even a floor of a residence hall – the committee steps in to decide whether it's a good idea. Committee members are instructed to be impartial and hear both sides of an argument before making a decision.

Glassman asked the committee this year to revisit the controversial Douglas Hall name for the third time in the last 11 years. The

committee will offer a final recommendation to Glassman and his council about whether the name for Douglas Hall, named after Stephen Douglas, a pro-slavery American politician from the 1800s, should remain in place.

At their last meeting on March 3, the committee scheduled a series of upcoming forums at which the surveying will take place. Those on the committee agree that it is important to gather the consensus of those whose communities encompass Douglas Hall, so that the decision satisfies the parties most affected.

"These are particular student subgroups that we think will have a vested interest in weighing in or at least sharing their thoughts or giving the committee some feedback about the Douglas Hall name," said Ken Wetstein at a meeting on January 20. Wetstein is the ex-officio convener of the committee.

The subgroups of students the committee will hear from are:

- Student Government, Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council (led by committee member Mona Davenport)

- Black Student Union, Latin American Student Organization and National Panhellenic Council (led by Davenport)

- Douglas Hall Council and Residence Hall Association (led by Wetstein)

Forums will also be hosted for the staff, the general student body and the local community.

Currently one for faculty is scheduled for March 24 at 3 p.m.

The committee will also be reviewing the design of a survey about Douglas Hall that will be sent to every student, faculty and staff member. The survey will gather public opinion for the committee to consider before making their final recommendation. Students and faculty that are interested in sharing their thoughts on the matter can expect to receive an email with a link to the survey.

The decision that the Naming Committee provides is a recommendation only, and the President and his council can choose to override the ruling and proceed forward with an alternate decision if they so choose. Despite this, an override is statistically unlikely: in the past two attempts to rename Douglas Hall, in 2010 and 2017, both times the President respected the decision of the committee and did not vote to change the name.

John Wills can be reached at 581-2812 or at jmwills@eiu.edu.

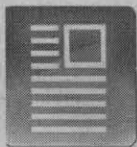
Local weather

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

PM Rain
High: 63°
Low: 50°Rain
High: 53°
Low: 30°

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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STATE AND NATION

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Schools weigh seating students closer together

BOSTON (AP) — New evidence that it may be safe for schools to seat students 3 feet apart — half of the previous recommended distance — could offer a way to return more of the nation's children to classrooms with limited space.

Even as more teachers receive vaccinations against COVID-19, social distancing guidelines have remained a major hurdle for districts across the U.S. Debate around the issue flared last week when a study suggested that masked students can be seated as close as 3 feet apart with no increased risk to them or teachers.

Published in the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases, the research looked at schools in Massachusetts, which has backed the 3-foot guideline for months. Illinois and Indiana are also allowing 3 feet of distance, and other states such as Oregon are considering doing the same.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is now exploring the idea too. The agency's director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, said the 6-foot guideline is "among the biggest challenges" schools have faced in reopening.

The CDC included the larger spacing in its latest school guidelines, which were issued in February and concluded that schools can safely operate during the pandemic with masks, distancing and other precautions. It suggested 6 feet and said physical distancing "should be maximized to the greatest extent possible."

Other organizations have issued more relaxed guidelines, including the World Health Organization, which urges 1 meter in schools. The American Academy of Pediatrics says to space desks "3 feet apart and ideally 6 feet apart."

Dan Domenech, executive director of AASA, a national superintendents group, said he expects more states and schools to move to the 3-foot rule in coming weeks. With the larger guideline, he said, most schools only have space to bring back half of their students at a time. Moving to 3 feet could allow about 75% at a time, he said.

"There are districts that have been doing 3 feet for quite some time without ex-

periencing any greater amount of infection," he said.

In Illinois, health officials said last week that students can be seated 3 feet apart as long as their teachers are vaccinated. Before, state officials required 6 feet.

With the state's blessing, the Barrington district near Chicago reopened middle schools Tuesday using the smaller spacing rule. Any student will be allowed to attend in-person classes, although the district expects roughly 30% to continue with remote learning.

Questions around spacing have led to a battle in Massachusetts, where teachers and some schools oppose a state plan to bring younger students back five days a week starting next month. The plan calls on schools to seat students 3 feet apart, although many have been using 6 feet as a standard. Districts that fail to meet the reopening deadline would risk losing state funding.

The Massachusetts Teachers Association, a statewide union, argues that seating students closer will increase the risk for everyone in the classroom. It also poses a problem for districts that have agreed to contracts with teachers adopting the 6-foot rule as a requirement.

"They can't just throw 6 feet out the window. They can't throw away what has been agreed upon," said Merrie Najimy, president of the union. "If they can't make it work, then they're going to have to come to a new agreement."

Public schools in Worcester are among those pushing back against the closer spacing. Tracy O'Connell Novick, a member of the district school committee, said switching to the 3-foot standard would be "betting the health" of thousands of students and staff.

In Boston's public schools, desks will be spaced at least 3 feet apart, but teachers and staff will be asked to keep 6 feet from students and other staff when feasible, district spokesperson Xavier Andrews said. Schools will also use larger rooms and outdoor spaces to keep students at a safe distance, he said.

In some states that already allow 3-foot spacing, schools say they have seen no evidence of increased risk. School officials in Danville, Indiana, which moved to 3 feet in October, said students have been in the classroom all year with no uptick in virus transmission.

"It's gone very well for us. I won't say there has been no transmission, but it's been staggeringly low — like one time or something like that," said Tim McRoberts, vice president of the school board. "We've kept our doors open. We've had no temporary shutdowns."

In Ohio, Cincinnati's school board got an earful from parents and others last month when it proposed resuming in-person learning at the crowded Walnut Hills High School under a model that called for distancing of only 3 feet there while its other schools would use 6 feet.

The critics included Walnut Hills teacher Brandon Keller, who said the plan was dangerous. He warned the board that their decision "will have a body count."

Board members backed off on reopening that school, then weeks later narrowly voted for a plan that included a phased reopening, but they also warned that the physical distancing might be less than 6 feet. Students also have options to continue learning virtually.

Seven superintendents in central Oregon sent a letter to Gov. Kate Brown last week asking the state to relax some of its social distancing rules — including the 6-foot barrier — so that more students can return to class full time.

Oregon's Crook County School District, which has had students in classrooms most of the school year, has found that masks, contact tracing and sending students home when they show symptoms are the most effective means of combating the virus.

"The 6-foot rule doesn't make as much sense as the other safety measures," district spokesperson Jason Carr said. "What may have made sense two months ago or at the beginning of the year might not now."

US: Putin approved action for Trump against Biden

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized influence operations to help Donald Trump in last November's presidential election, according to a declassified intelligence assessment that found broad efforts by the Kremlin and Iran to shape the outcome of the race but ultimately no evidence that any foreign actor changed votes or otherwise disrupted the voting process.

The report released Tuesday from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence represents the most detailed assessment of the array of foreign threats to the 2020 election. These included efforts by Iran to undermine confidence in the vote and harm Trump's re-election prospects as well as Moscow operations that relied on Trump's allies to smear Joe Biden, the eventual winner.

Despite those threats, though, intelligence officials found "no indications that any foreign actor attempted to interfere in the 2020 US elections by altering any technical aspect of the voting process, including voter registration, ballot casting, vote tabulation, or reporting results."

The report is the latest official affirmation of the integrity of the election, even as Trump supporters continue to make false claims of interference, from foreign or domestic actors, and refuse to accept Biden's victory. Multiple courts and even Trump's own Justice Department refuted claims of widespread fraud. The document makes clear that even while Trump has cried foul about the legitimacy of the election, intelligence officials believe Russia sought to influence people close to Trump as a way to tip the election in his favor.

The report wades into the politically charged task of ferreting out which foreign adversaries supported which candidates during the 2020 election, an issue that dominated headlines last year. Trump, whose 2016 campaign benefited from hacking by Russian intelligence officers and a covert social media effort, seized on an intelligence assessment from August that said China preferred a Biden presidency — even though the same assessment also said Russia was working to boost Trump's own candidacy by disparaging Biden.

Tuesday's report, however, says China ultimately did not interfere on either side and "considered but did not deploy" influence operations intended to affect the outcome. U.S. officials say they believe Beijing prioritized a stable relationship with the U.S. and did not consider either election outcome as advantageous enough for it to risk the "blowback" that would ensue if it got caught with interfering.

The primary threats instead came from Russia and Iran, albeit with different intentions and through different means, according to intelligence officials.

In the case of Russia, the report says, Russia sought to undermine Biden's candidacy because it viewed his presidency as opposed to the Kremlin's interests, though it took some steps to prepare for a Democratic administration as the election neared.

Biden to hold 1st news briefing

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden will hold his first formal news conference on March 25 at the White House, press secretary Jen Psaki said Tuesday.

Biden is the first president in decades to go this long without holding a formal question and answer session with report-

ers. He has opted to take questions about as often as most of his recent predecessors, but he tends to field just one or two informal inquiries at a time, usually in a hurried setting at the end of an event.

It reflects a White House media strategy meant both to reserve major media set-pieces for the celebration of a legisla-

tive victory and to limit unforced errors from a historically gaffe-prone politician.

The White House has faced escalating pressure to hold a press conference, and his delay sparked Republican attacks. Psaki had previously said Biden would hold a news conference before the end of March.

U.S. Army facing criticism from Congress over Fort Hood response

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers expressed frustration Tuesday with how slowly improvements are being made to criminal investigation at Fort Hood, Texas, where rates of violent crime and sexual assaults are particularly high.

They grilled the commander of the Army's Criminal Investigation Command, or CID, who said she is "seizing this moment" to correct the staffing and resource problems within her agency that led to sweeping failures in tracking and solving cases.

"We can and we will do better," Maj. Gen. Donna Martin told the House Armed Services subcommittee on military personnel. She said the Army is working to restructure and modernize CID, and is considering adding more civilian investigators and creating special teams that could respond to major criminal cases when needed at any base.

More than two dozen Fort Hood soldiers died in 2020, including in multiple homicides and suicides. The death of Vanessa Guillen, whose remains were

found in July, and other cases prompted an independent review, which found that military leaders were not adequately dealing with high rates of sexual assault, harassment, drug use and other problems at the base. The review also concluded that the Army CID was understaffed, overwhelmed and filled with inexperienced investigators.

Members of the independent review panel told lawmakers on Tuesday that the CID investigators lacked the acumen to identify key leads and "connect the dots."

Professor shares experiences with immigration

By Ryan Meyer
Staff Reporter | @DEN_news

The Academy of Lifelong Learning presented a virtual presentation and discussion with Dr. Amy Davis Tuesday afternoon.

Davis, an assistant professor of elementary literacy, shared her story as someone who was raised in a multicultural family with a father from Eastern Europe and a mother from America, and how the clashing cultures and her father's experiences shaped her and helped her form her own values.

"My dad was an immigrant and he worked very hard his entire life. He taught me an incredible work ethic," Davis said. "He also instilled a quest for knowledge of the world around me and to feel for others and help when possible."

Davis noted that while she didn't

agree with her father's traditional values, she did share a desire with him to be her own person and go against the grain, whether the grain be the invading Russian regime or some of the stereotypical views her father brought to America.

"Even though I rebelled against his 'cultural' views, I don't think I was any different from who he was," Davis said. "He left his country because he didn't want to be under the communist regime, and I didn't want to be defined by his culture."

Davis said that her parents' providing of food to undocumented immigrants in San Diego taught her generosity and sharing.

"Interestingly enough, my parents taught me that when someone is hungry, whether it be for knowledge, whether it be for food, whether it be for anything, that

you give to them. If you have more than someone else, you give," Davis said.

Her father's background as a refugee and immigrant himself helped him form these beliefs, Davis said.

The presentation began with Davis' interpretation of the difference between empathy and sympathy.

"Empathy is walking a mile in somebody else's shoes, while sympathy is just feeling sorry that their feet hurt," she said.

Personal matters can close one off from other people's lives and prevent them from understanding others and being empathetic, Davis said.

"The idea of empathy means that we don't just feel sorry for someone, we can actually feel and understand what they're going through," Davis said. "Often-

times, we can get caught up in our own life struggles without realizing we're being closed off to what others might be experiencing."

She also cited the country's political state as something that could be hindering progress in kindness and empathy.

"Sometimes in this political climate that we live in at times, I think to myself, 'Have we forgotten that we're human beings, and that we should be sharing what we have with others,'" Davis said.

Educating each other on the differences of others and learning to appreciate those differences can lead to empathy, Davis said.

"We need to take time to learn about other cultures. We need to take time to learn about others' educational beliefs and gender roles," Davis said. "Because when we take the time to learn about others, it

opens a sense of willingness and care and appreciation that we appreciate that somebody is different from ourselves, and that we can embrace those differences and somehow maybe empathize with what they have had to go through in their lives."

If there was one main point Davis wanted those in attendance to walk away with, she said it was to acknowledge the differences of others in their decision to leave their country or town for what could be a better opportunity.

"I think most importantly is I wanted participants to understand how truly fortunate we are and to understand why some leave their homes and forge a new life somewhere else," Davis said.

Ryan Meyer can be reached at 581-2812 or at rameyer@eiu.edu.

AP: Black woman face of Missouri after NAACP warning

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Black woman has become the face of Missouri's tourism campaign, nearly four years after the NAACP warned travelers that their civil rights may not be respected if they visit the state.

The Missouri Division of Tourism kicked off the campaign Monday, describing the woman the agency dubbed Mo as "a character and tour guide of sorts," the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports. She is featured in a promotional video hiking, watching a baseball game and riding a roller coaster. Pictures also show her posing as a Foodie Mo, Bar-

becue Mo, Lake Mo, History Mo and more.

"Mo embodies Missouri and everything we have to offer visitors in our state," Stephen Foutes, director of the Division of Tourism, said in the release.

But Missouri NAACP President Nimrod Chapel said the group's travel advisory will remain in effect until Missouri makes "meaningful progress in the systemic abuses affecting people of color." The state group warned travelers to be careful while in the state in June 2017 because of what it described as a danger that civil rights won't be respected. The

national NAACP took up the warning a couple of months later.

"I don't quite understand where they're going with the campaign, and why put a Black face on it," Chapel said.

"Missouri is a place that has been marked by violence and Jim Crow," Chapel said. "It's good that they're trying to think inclusively for people they should invite to the state," but it's also unfortunate when the government "hasn't done anything to address those risks in a meaningful way."

Ashley Santana, a St. Louis-based actress, model and soprano, plays Mo. She

declined to comment through the agency that represents her.

In a statement emailed to the Post-Dispatch, Foutes did not directly answer whether the casting decision was related to the NAACP advisory.

He said Visit Missouri, the tourism website that features Mo, "auditioned over 200 actors and actresses with strong ties to Missouri. As Mo came to life, we wanted to reflect the down-to-earth, easygoing and inviting personality of Missouri. ... We're proud to feature an African American and Missouri native in this campaign to welcome future visitors

to Missouri."

Brian Hall, chief marketing officer for Explore St. Louis, said efforts to position St. Louis and Missouri as warm and welcoming have become especially important since Michael Brown's death in 2014 focused the nation's attention on the region's unresolved racial justice issues.

Though systemic change is still needed, Hall said, the casting of Santana "sends an important signal ... that our state is proud to feature an African American woman as a representative, an ambassador, for our state."

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Reduced distancing at schools has both its pros and cons

More states are exploring the idea of sitting students closer together in schools, reducing the distance between them from six feet to three feet.

This push comes after research into schools in Massachusetts, which has been distancing students at three feet, found that the closer distance has not led to an increased risk for the students or their teachers, so long as they are all masked and the teacher is vaccinated.

Illinois is along the states that is following the three-foot guideline, and others are considering it as well.

We at The Daily Eastern News think that it is a good idea to use three-foot distancing, as it will allow more children to resume their education in person.

There are several things to consider, though.

Schools will likely not be able to return to full capacity even with reduced distancing, so students that are struggling with remote learning should be prioritized if in-person class sizes increase.

There is another option, which would be to keep things the same for the rest of the school year and not bring students back into classrooms. Many children have already had to make a difficult transition to virtual learning, and having them transition back to the classroom may cause unnecessary stress.

But as long as states are doing so safely, reducing distancing is certainly a possibility to consider.

Quote of the Day:

"In order to carry a positive action we must develop here a positive vision."

Dalai Lama

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

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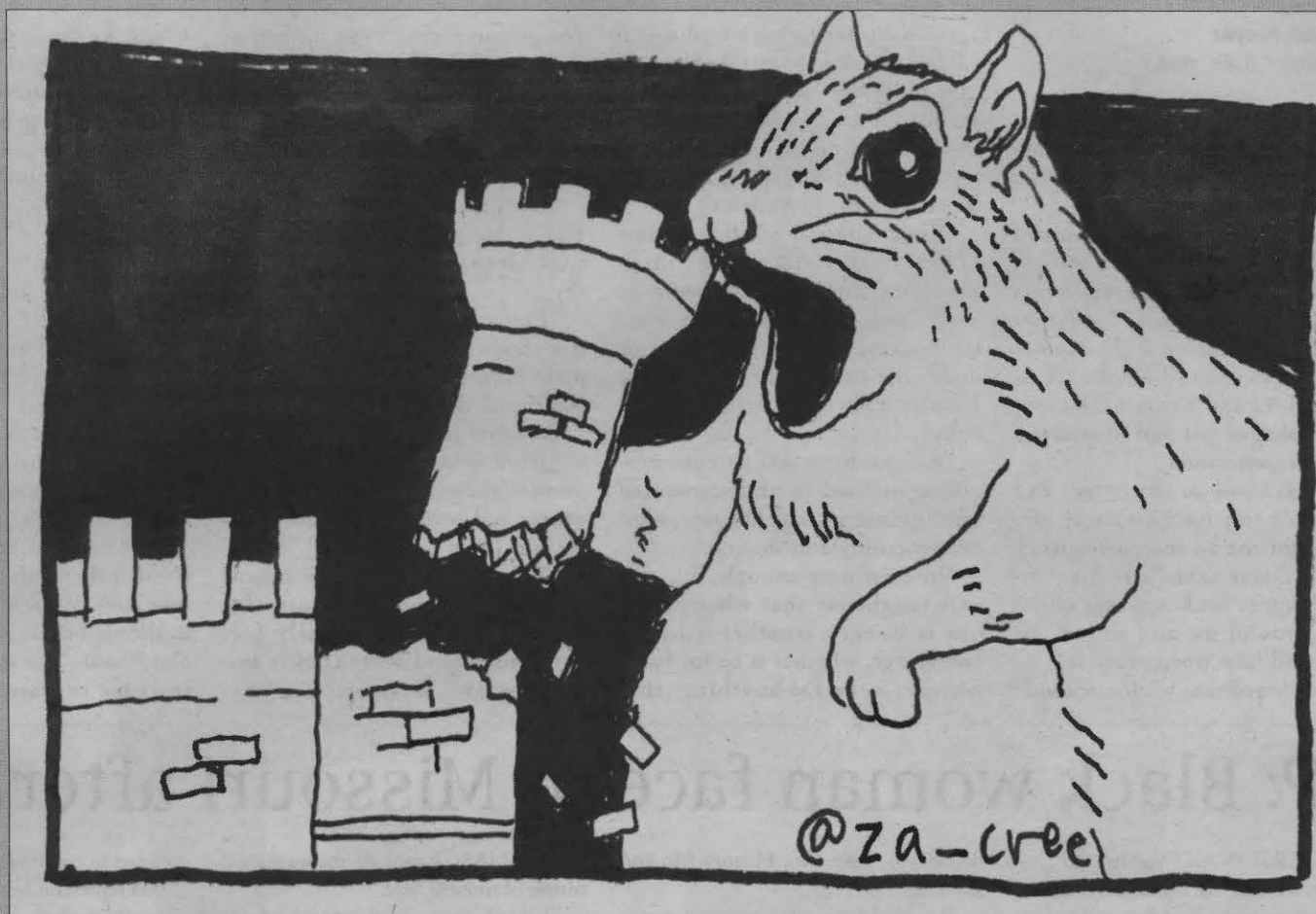
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BY ZACH BERGER

My personal 'one-hit wonders'

As with many people, there are countless artists with long, respected careers that only have a few songs that have made it onto my playlists. This is no fault of theirs, it results from my own laziness or just a preference for that particular song. I'm sure there are artists I listen to who probably have an entire catalogue of gems, but I just haven't made the effort to look for them. The following are some of my favorite songs by artists I haven't listened to enough.

"Labrador" by Pardoners features some more great guitar work, this time with some distortion, but not so much that the harmony of the chords being played can't be noticed. The lead guitar also has multiple riffs that are worth mentioning in both the verse and chorus. If I were able to learn music by ear, the lead guitar in the chorus of this song would be one of the first things I'd try to learn.

I'm pretty sure I found the song "Something For The Weekend" by The Rhythm Method in a Spotify playlist created either by the band shame or one of its members. It features multi-



Ryan Meyer

ple vocalists and what sounds like an electronic bass that pulses behind the staccato guitar in the right side of the audio, for headphone listeners.

"Liars" by Dead Tooth could be an anthem. This song is very catchy and has, yet again, great guitar work. Nothing complicated, just chords that serve the song and act as the perfect background for the synth that comes in later in the song.

The artist Black Marble has a few songs that

I really enjoy, and this is an example where I think if I took the time to listen to some of his songs, I think he would become an artist whose synthesizer and drum machine-based work I could appreciate as a separation from the normal guitar-driven music I listen to. My current favorites out of the limited bunch I've heard are "A Great Design" and "MSQ No-Extra," which, seeing as how they are from the same album, probably means the album has some other phenomenal songs that just require a little more searching to find.

Writing this has shown me that I should probably stop complaining to myself about having nothing new to listen to when all the great music is sitting right in the catalogues of artists I already listen to, waiting for me to find it. I'd advise anyone looking for new music to start in places where they've only scratched the surface.

Ryan Meyer is a sophomore journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or at rameyer@eiu.edu.

Spring Break is a double-edged sword

We're halfway through the month of March. In a normal school year this would mean a week off from classwork in order to recharge and going on vacation with friends and family. But like many other universities, Eastern has replaced a normal spring break with wellness days spread throughout the semester, not giving students the chance to party. While the reason for this decision is justified (due to the pandemic), it doesn't mean that there are no students partying on their own time.

Last year during this time I remember seeing news coverage of overcrowded beaches in places like Florida and California. There was an understandable amount of criticism of the many college students who chose to party despite the pandemic and the start of quarantine. After a year of dealing with COVID one could assume that students aren't making the same mistakes but that isn't the case.

In the past couple of weeks Florida, particularly Miami, has seen an uptake in spring breakers. Part of this is due to the fact that



Destiny Blanchard

Florida has lifted many COVID restrictions and partygoers have used that as an excuse to do anything they want. The main concern being that thousands of people have flocked to beaches mask-less and without social distancing.

The implementation of altered and redistributed spring break days has done well at keeping the majority of university students from partying and potentially spreading COVID, howev-

er, it has harmed them in some ways too. Although spring break is mainly looked at as an excuse to go out and party, many students look forward to it so they can get a well-deserved break from their academic work. It can be overwhelming and exhausting for college students to have to work for several weeks in a row.

Compared to the fall semester, during which we had a break that gave us the opportunity to relax and prepare for finals, the wellness days help to some degree but don't truly allow for a proper mental break from students. I and many of my friends usually spend the wellness days catching up on homework or sleeping; the wellness days only help for a short amount of time. We as students are stuck between the practicality of having no real break for safety reasons, and the annoyance of having constant schoolwork take a toll on our mental health.

Destiny Blanchard is a junior management major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or dblanchard@eiu.edu.

» CITY COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The council is recommended to approve the item placing the budget on file for inspection.

The city council also approved an item waiving the bidding procedures for the purchase of a truck for the Parks and Recreation Department.

The city will be purchasing a 2021 Ford F250 utility to replace a 2001 Ford F250 for the department.

The purchase will be from Pilson Auto Center.

The reason for the purchase is so that the Parks and Recreation Department can "continue to provide and maintain the existing level of services to the community."

The purchase will not exceed \$39,474.

The estimated purchase price for a basic model of the truck is \$38,009 according to Kelley Blue Book.

The council will also vote on granting a petition for a rear yard zoning variance at 1610 Redbud Rd.

The property is occupied by Pro-Mow Lawn Care.

The council is being asked to allow the owner, Ed Carter, to build a 2,640 square foot building on the land that would be 15 feet from the rear property line. The property is zoned as agricultural which requires a 35-foot set back from the rear property line.

The following finding of fact was listed in the item:

"The current "Pro-Mow" building is deteriorated and needs to be replaced. The orientation of the building will shift from west/east to north/south in order for the operation to function effectively. Currently, the



SCREENSHOT BY CORRYN BROCK

Councilman Dennis Malek leads the Charleston City Council meeting Tuesday evening. Mayor Brandon Combs who typically leads the meetings was absent.

existing building is approximately 8' from the west property line (rear). The new building will shift to the east and allow for a 15' rear yard setback, improving the existing condition."

Councilman Dennis Malek, on behalf of Mayor Brandon Combs, announced two re-appointments during the meeting. Combs was not present for the meeting.

Both re-appointments were approved.

One re-appoint is for Brendan Lynch to a three-year term on the Fire and Police Board of Commissioners, the other will be for the re-appointment Charleston Fire Department Steve Bennett for a four-year on the Charleston Electrical Commission.

The continuation of the local state of emergency was also approved.

According to the resolution, "The nature of the emergency is the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude that it may re-

sult in or threaten the death or illness of persons to such an extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Charleston, and thereby it has warranted an emergency declaration for all states and local government entities and more specifically within the corporate limits of the City of Charleston."

During the meeting no public comment was given.

The next council meeting will be April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Public comment can be made or submitted remotely via email to city-clerk@co.coles.il.us. Those interested in submitting public comment should send emails prior to 5:00 p.m. April 6 and indicate in the subject line: CC: 03/16/2020, so the city clerk knows the email is public comment for the meeting.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at cebrock@eiu.edu.

Student Senate to talk possible Rec. Center fee increase

By Helena Edwards
Student Government Reporter | @DEN_News

The Student Senate will be moving on from discussion of the proposed housing and dining rate increase to a proposed fee increase for the recreation center.

Coming in to discuss this will be Sarah Daugherty, the director of campus recreation.

A fee increase has not been implemented since 2008 when there was a 3.6% increase.

"We are hoping to fund the increase in minimum wage for our 80-100 student employees as well as improve the equipment available to the students using the SRC," Daugherty said.

The 50 percent increase will go from \$6 per credit hour to \$9 per credit hour, capped at 12 credit hours.

This means that for full time students it will be a fee of \$108 per semester and \$216 per year.

Student Senate will discuss this after a presentation from Daugherty to see if they support this and can deny or accept.

Held within the consent agenda for Wednesday's meeting are several appointments to the Student Action Team.

Those to be added will be Student Body Senators Payton Ade and Fran-

cesco Romano.

Another addition is Keegan Noll, making those three the only members of Student Action Team thus far besides the chair and advisor.

Serving as Executive Vice President of Student Senate, Michael Perri also serves as chair to the Student Action Team.

Student Action Team serves to "represent the expressed interests of EIU students and present those interests to state lawmakers. The Student Action Team works closely with state and local lawmakers in the State of Illinois to improve the quality of education and financial support for EIU students.

They also "gain hands-on political experience advocating in the State of Illinois Capital — Springfield, Illinois on behalf of the EIU Student Body."

The only requirements to be on Student Action Team are a minimum of a 2.5 GPA and be in good standing with Eastern Illinois University.

Plans for Student Action Team will be updated bylaws as well as starting an advertising campaign to focus on the requirement of diverse majors to bring new perspective to Student Action Team.

The next Student Senate meeting will be held March 24.

Helena Edwards can be reached at 581-2812 or at heedwards@eiu.edu.

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CORRYN BROCK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Evelyn Hildebrandt, Barbara Corley and Evelyn Brubb knit at Jackson Avenue Coffee. The women said they enjoyed knitting in the coffee shop.

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AP SPORTS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bears agree to 1-year, \$10 million contract with QB Andy Dalton

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bears agreed to a one-year, \$10 million contract with former Cincinnati Bengals and Dallas Cowboys quarterback Andy Dalton, agent Jeffrey Nalley said Tuesday.

The three-time Pro Bowler could earn an additional \$3 million in bonuses.

Dalton signed with Dallas last May to back up Dak Prescott after getting released by Cincinnati. He wound up starting nine games, officially going 4-4 to bring his career record to 74-65-2, with Prescott suffering a season-ending

ankle injury in Week 5. The Cowboys finished 6-10 and missed the playoffs for the second year in a row.

Dalton has thrown for 33,764 yards, 218 touchdowns and 126 interceptions. He set several Bengals passing records over nine seasons and made the Pro Bowl in 2011, 2014 and 2016. But he never led Cincinnati past the first round of the playoffs.

Signing Dalton gives the Bears two veteran quarterbacks with Nick Foles also on the roster. And it almost certainly shuts the door

on 2017 No. 2 overall draft pick Mitchell Trubisky re-signing.

The Bears seemed to make clear their feelings about Trubisky prior to last season when they acquired Foles from Jacksonville and declined their fifth-year option for 2021 on their once-prized QB.

Trubisky got benched in a Week 3 comeback win at Atlanta and didn't return to the lineup until late November. In between, Foles struggled and suffered a hip and glute injury.

The Bears made the playoffs despite going 8-8 in the regular sea-

son for the second year in a row, then got knocked out in a convincing wild-card loss at New Orleans.

Also on Tuesday, the team announced a three-year extension through 2023 with defensive end Mario Edwards Jr.

Edwards had a career-high four sacks and seven quarterback hits after signing with Chicago prior to last season. He has 14 1/2 sacks and 30 QB hits over six seasons with the Raiders, New York Giants, New Orleans Saints and Bears.

Woods returns to Florida to recover from crash

Tiger Woods is back at home in Florida to resume his recovery from career-threatening leg injuries he suffered when his SUV ran off a road and down a hill in the Los Angeles suburbs last month.

"Happy to report that I am back home and continuing my recovery," Woods said in a tweet posted Tuesday night. "I am so grateful for the outpouring of support and encouragement that I have received over the past few weeks."

Woods was injured Feb. 23, two days after the Genesis Invitational at Riviera. He was on his way to a television shoot for GolfTV a little after 7 a.m. when his SUV crashed into a median, rolled over and ended up on its side near a steep road known for wrecks, authorities said. He had to be pulled out through the windshield.

He had a lengthy surgery that day at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center for shattered tibia and fibula bones of his lower right leg in multiple locations. Those were stabilized with a rod in his tibia. Additional injuries to the bones in his foot and ankle required screws and pins.

He was transferred to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for follow-up procedures.

Woods thanked the medical staff at both hospitals for taking care of him.

Mets, Francisco Lindor talk about new deal

Just over two weeks before opening day, Francisco Lindor and the New York Mets have begun talking about keeping him in town beyond this season.

The newly acquired All-Star shortstop and the team have started discussing a long-term contract, he said Tuesday.

"I will not renegotiate during the season," Lindor said after hitting his first home run this spring, connecting against Houston's Jairo Solis during the Mets' 8-3 win.

"I will go to free agency. If something carries on during the season, it's not fair for me. It's not fair for the team. I've

got to give everything I've got into winning baseball games. So if it doesn't happen in spring training, I'll go to free agency. We'll talk in November, December, whenever free agency starts," he said.

As for now? "Nothing serious," Lindor said. "We're just talking."

The Mets obtained Lindor from Cleveland in January, and he's signed for this season at \$22.3 million.

The 27-year-old Lindor was an All-Star for four straight seasons before 2020, when there was no Midsummer Classic before of the coronavirus pandemic.

New York opens the season April 1 at Washington.

One of the players Cleveland got for Lindor, shortstop Amed Rosario, had a rough day in his debut at a new spot.

Playing center field for the first time, Rosario made three errors — two drops, one wild throw — in a game against the Los Angeles Angels. Rosario's four years in the majors include just one game in the outfield, and that was only for three innings in left.

The Indians, with enough infield talent, are hoping to take advantage of Rosario's athleticism. Rosario got two hits

but as manager Terry Francona said earlier in the week, they've got to patient in seeing if the newcomer can play center field.

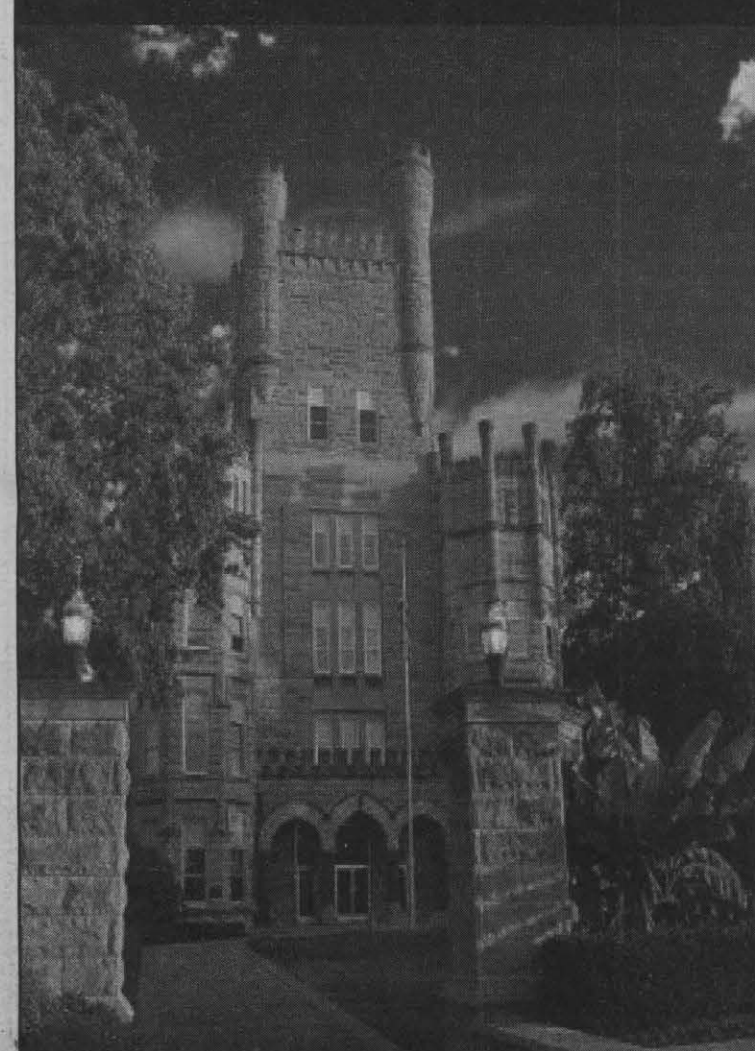
Shohei Ohtani hit his third home run in two days for the Angels and fourth of the spring, launching a shot that cleared the batter's eye in center field off AL Cy Young winner Shane Bieber.

Bieber allowed nine runs, but only one earned after the errors by Rosario.

"I talked to him after the third inning, once I was done. I told him, 'Listen, man, this stuff's hard. Don't get down on yourself. Keep your head up,'" Bieber said.

TODAY'S
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Panthers lose 1-0 to Redhawks Tuesday



ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern junior Amanda DaSilva (right) battles for position with a Southeast Missouri player in a match March 16 at Lakeside Field. DaSilva led the Panthers with 3 shots in the match, which Eastern lost 1-0.

By Adam Tumino
Editor-in-Chief | @adam_tumino

The Eastern women's soccer team lost 1-0 to Southeast Missouri at home Tuesday afternoon, the third-straight loss for the Panthers.

Eastern is now 1-4 at the halfway point of the season, making them one of three teams tied for ninth place in the OVC. Southeast Missouri improved to 4-4 with the win and is tied with Southern Illinois-Edwardsville for second in the OVC. Murray State is leading the conference at 5-0.

For much of the game Tuesday, Eastern was able to hold off the Redhawk's attack.

Southeast Missouri outshot Eastern 5-2 in the first half, but the match remained scoreless at halftime.

It remained scoreless well into the second half as well until Redhawk freshman Emma Brune got one by Eastern goalkeeper Daniel Bermeo in the 78th minute. It was Brune's first career goal.

Eastern had an opportunity to tie the score just two minutes later on a shot from junior Amanda DaSilva, but Southeast Missouri junior goalkeeper Bailey Redden made the save.

The Panthers had another shot from sophomore midfielder Kenzie Balcerak in the final minute of the match that missed wide to the right.

Southeast Missouri had 13 shots in the match, five of which were on goal. Eastern had six shots, two of which were on goal.

DaSilva led the Panthers with three shots and had both of the team's shots on goal. They were the first shots of

the season for DaSilva Eastern freshmen Karima Rangel and Cam Korhorn each attempted a shot, as did Balcerak.

Bermeo had 4 saves and now leads the OVC with 30 saves this season.

The loss was the fourth shut-out loss for the Panthers this season. They have just one goal this season, the fewest in the OVC, which was a game-winner by senior forward Haylee Renick in double-overtime against Morehead State on March 5, the Panthers' home opener.

Three players are tied for the team lead in shots this season for the Panthers.

They are Renick, sophomore midfielder Nicoletta Anuci and sophomore forward Zenaya Barnes with 5 shots apiece. Barnes leads the team in shots on goal with four.

Outside of a record-setting 7-0 loss against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville March 9, the Eastern defense has been solid. They have allowed just a single goal in each of the other three losses.

Eastern's next match will be on the road against Belmont on March 19. The Bruins are 2-3 this season and snapped a three-match losing streak on Tuesday with a 1-0 win over Tennessee Tech. Eastern played Belmont on the road last season as well, falling to the Bruins 1-0 in double overtime.

The Panthers have lost their last six matches against Belmont, with their last win in the matchup coming in the 2013 season.

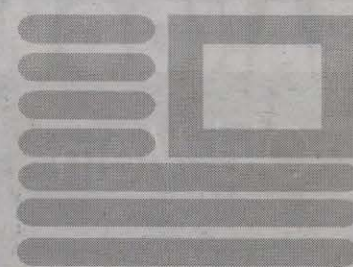
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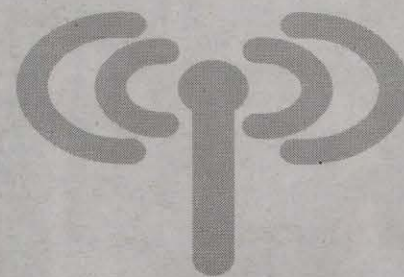
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